



Questions for Pittsburgh City Council District candidates:

1. HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh is seeking to shape Pittsburgh into 'America's Model Humane City'. This means participating in an open dialogue on animal protection, working to end animal cruelty for all animals and passing protective legislation where needed.

What are your plans to protect animals and can you support the above statement?

Answer: Yes I support the above statement. I love animals and will do anything I can to advocate for them. I think that there is much that can be done in the city to protect wildlife and assist in animal homelessness and adoption. One idea I have had is to partner with local organizations and sponsor clinics so that residents in the hilltop can have closer access to vet care, vaccinations and spaying and neutering as many residents do not have cars and it is difficult to transport animals further away to participate in care. I pledge to help in any legislative action that can help protect animals.

2. The resilience strategy "ONEPgh" calls for a 50% reduction of the meat consumed in our city by 2030. This is in keeping with the United Nations recommendation to combat climate change, which states: The #1 corrective action is to greatly reduce or give up meat entirely. This is more impactful to the environment than discontinuing the use of cars and airplanes altogether.

What are your plans to protect animals and the environment through meat reduction?

Answer: Giving up meat or greatly reducing meat will be a barrier as long as the perception that it is a sacrifice. I think that we could partner with the award winning Vegan restaurant Onion Maiden that is in Allentown a few blocks from my house and have tastings for the public so they can see that meatless food is delicious. Winning hearts and minds is the key to making positive gains in the very important area.

3. Plastic pollution is a growing problem worldwide, and in the city of Pittsburgh. HAP's "no plastic please" campaign works to end to single-use plastic wherever possible. We also encourage people to examine their dietary choices as approximately half of the plastic in the ocean is from commercial fishing.

What are your plans to reduce or eliminate plastic use in the City of Pittsburgh?

Answer: I would introduce a ban on single use plastic bags at grocery and restaurants. I feel this is long overdue and would be a good preliminary step to possibly banning all single use plastics in the city following the trend in other major cities like San Francisco and all of the EU.

4. Our city has one of the worst wildlife trapping policies, meaning highest kill rate, for a city of our size in the United States. Residents have become used to calling Animal Care & Control to trap groundhogs, raccoons and skunks which must then be euthanized at tax payer expense. For the most part, trapping is a temporary solution as other animals will fill the void, leading a cycle of trapping and killing.

Will you prioritize an education campaign for Pittsburgh residents that separates wildlife myth from reality and support a policy change to reduce the amount of needless trapping?

Answer: Yes. This is just bad policy to continually trap wildlife and euthanize it. It is cruel and unnecessary. We live in an urban forest and in our district there are many green spaces that we share with wildlife. Animal populations add fullness to the overall experience of life in our city and should be cared for and managed without barbaric trapping and killing.

5. The Pittsburgh Zoo is currently ranked the #2 Worst Zoo in the County for elephants. They are in violation of their lease with the City of Pittsburgh for failing to maintain AZA accreditation. Further, no satisfactory answer has been received from the Zoo or the City as to whether the Zoo is following city law, which bans the use of bullhooks and other instruments of pain on elephants.

What are your plans to ensure the Pittsburgh Zoo follows city law and regains their AZA accreditation?

Answer: I pledge to always follow-up to make sure the laws passed in council are fulfilling the promise to citizens and our animal friends. I would personally call the Zoo management to regularly pressure and check in on compliance issues until I was satisfied that the law is being followed.

6. Please let our members know what you have done in the past to protect animals.

Answer: I have yet to hold public office so I have no legislative record. I have advocated for improvements to land use and greenways to share our city with wildlife and prevent over development with several boards I sit on such as Allentown CDC, Hilltop Alliance and Scenic Pittsburgh. My family volunteers for the City of Pittsburgh Police Biscuits bingo working year round to collect donations and assist in the bingo every year. This event raises over \$35,000 a year for animal organizations. When I worked for City Council we started a program to showcase animals before council and I adopted the first dog to come through, I also saved and adopted an abandoned dog from the vacant lot next door to our house and gave it to my wife her wedding present. Picture included because we adore our daughter Bean.